

Letter from the Eternal City

Dear Parishioners,

I write to you from the Eternal City of Rome, radiant in all its grandeur and splendor. For the Jubilee Year 2,000 the City was scrubbed clean of the grime that had darkened its buildings over the centuries. The City has been bathed in sunshine the entire week, and it is striking to see all the monuments and churches, especially St. Peter's Basilica, sparkling as if just built. Especially St. Peter's! – one never tires of being here. The great colonnade of Bernini reaches out to embrace the faithful as Holy Mother Church embraces her children.

But is always with a bit of sadness that one leaves Lourdes, the mountain sanctuary of the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. One pilgrim said one must not so much say "goodbye" as "see you again," for Lourdes is a place one must return to over and over.

As I wrote in my last missive, your prayers and intentions were carefully left at the Grotto where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in the year 1858. Let us continue those intentions with fervor and true devotion, always begging the grace to discern God's will and the strength to accept it in our lives.

Lourdes is fundamentally a place of healing and reconciliation. It is the sanctuary of the sick, who have an honored status here. There is a very simple but very moving museum of the cures of Lourdes. One simply walks through the rooms gazing upon the grainy photos and reading the stories of the blessed souls whose cures have been recognized as truly supernatural by the Church. Spending time reading here is one of the most captivating things one can do at Lourdes. I include some of the images from the museum.

Miracles do occur, and we must with confidence request them of Our Blessed Lord, especially through the intercession of His Mother, who is also our Mother in the order of grace. I know that each of us has special intentions. Let us be confident in our prayer as we petition Heaven...

I look forward to seeing very soon, as my sabbatical comes to an end on October the 10th. Peace to you and blessings from Rome!

--Father de Rosa



St. Peter's Basilica in all its splendor.



The grand interior of St Peter's Basilica

Our Lady spoke to St. Bernadette in her language, called Bigourdan. Here is the French translation, which reads: "Would you have the goodness to come here for 15 days?" Our Lady addressed little Bernadette with the formal form of "you." This was one of the astonishing elements at Lourdes. It was as if Our Lady acknowledged the state of grace of the little girl's soul...

*" Boulet aoue ra gracia
de bié aci penden
quinze días ?"
" Voulez-vous me faire
la grâce de venir ici
pendant quinze jours ?"*



Some of those miraculously cured at Lourdes and recognized by the Church

